

*Scoil Mhuire gan Smál,  
an Bhlárna*



*Fifth year subject choice booklet 2024  
for students and parents*

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**The Established Leaving Certificate  
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Blarney 2024**

This is a two year programme of general education. It is not a preparation for any one job or career. Students take a minimum of 7 exam subjects, three compulsory - Irish, English and Maths, and four optional.

**Optional Subjects:**

**Business Group**

Accounting  
Business  
Economics

**Language**

French  
German

**Scientific Group**

Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Agricultural Science  
Applied Maths  
Computer Science

**Social/Artistic Group**

Art  
Geography  
History  
Home Economics (Social & Scientific)  
Music  
Physical Education (P.E.)

**Technology Group**

Construction Studies  
Engineering  
Design & Communication Graphics  
Technology

**National Universities of Ireland (NUI)**

University College Dublin  
University College Cork  
National University of Ireland, Galway  
National University of Ireland, Maynooth

**NUI Recognised Colleges**

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
Institute of Public Administration

**College of a Constituent University**

St. Angela's College, Sligo  
National College of Art and Design  
Shannon College of Hotel Management  
Burren College of Art  
Institute of Banking

For a full list of Higher Education Colleges in Ireland go to [www.heai.ie](http://www.heai.ie)

## **The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (L.C.V.P.)**

The LCVP is a Leaving Certificate with a focus on enterprise and preparation for working life. This two-year programme combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate with a dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. In most ways the LCVP is like the established Leaving Certificate. LCVP students take additional courses, called Link Modules, in the areas of Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education.

Look at the LCVP Programme Statement to find out more about the aims of the programme.

[https://www.curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/997056e3-2792-4ef6-8b6c-ef80c0dfccd8/Revised-LCVP-Programme-Statement\\_June-22\\_EN.pdf](https://www.curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/997056e3-2792-4ef6-8b6c-ef80c0dfccd8/Revised-LCVP-Programme-Statement_June-22_EN.pdf)

## What you need to consider before choosing?

### *All Subjects are Equal.*

There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration when making subject choices and the decision must not be taken lightly. However, it is important to draw your attention to the fact that all subjects, except honours maths, are equal e.g. a H1 in Art is as valuable as a H1 in Physics for Engineering - one may be more useful than the other when studying Engineering at third level, but they are both scored the same for points. ***Just make sure that you have the required subjects for entry into the course and college you are aiming for.***

### ***The Exception: Honours Maths***

***\*All Universities and ITs are awarding a bonus of 25 points to students who achieve a grade H6 or above in higher level maths.***

### ***Choose subjects based on:***

Interest - If you are genuinely interested in the subject content you will find it easier to study the subject and, therefore, you will get better grades.

Aptitude/Ability - consider your achievements to date in the Junior Certificate or class tests.

Possible career paths - some subjects are essential for certain courses and careers. There is more information about this on pages 6 & 7.

### ***Taking up a subject not studied to Junior Certificate***

Although it is not essential to have taken certain subjects at Junior Certificate level in order to study them for Leaving Certificate, it is advisable, as students who have no previous experience of a subject going into Leaving Certificate are usually at a disadvantage. If a student wants to take up a subject they have not studied for Junior Certificate they should firstly, **and most importantly**, speak to that subject teacher; then take a look at the text books and speak to a student that studied the subject for their Leaving Certificate.

### **College and Course Entry Requirements:**

When researching individual courses there are two factors to look for - basic entry requirements to the college and specific course entry requirements. These are separate requirements and are both essential to be eligible for the course of your choice. It is advisable to check college websites for these requirements, however, [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) and [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) are very good websites for a quick research. Qualifax has a minimum subjects facility in the 'Useful Tools' section. There is also a huge amount of information Careers Portal regarding subject choice.

### **College (Basic) Entry Requirements:**

#### ***Some Examples:***

#### **For all NUI Colleges: (See page 3 for list)**

A minimum of 6 subjects - 2H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades to include Irish, English and a third language.

**NUI colleges** have dropped their third language requirement for many of their engineering, science, agricultural and food science programmes.

**You need to check each course and colleges e.g. Biotechnology in NUI Galway does require a third language.** In general Health science courses in NUIs require a third language. A third language is not a requirement for any nursing programmes.

Art or DCG is acceptable in place of the language for students entering NCAD.

Almost all Institutes of Technology's are now Universities e.g. CIT and Tralee IT are now MTU

#### **Trinity College Dublin:**

A minimum of 6 subjects - 3 H5 & 3 OH6/H7 grades to include English, Maths and another language.

#### **University of Limerick:**

A minimum of 6 subjects—2 H5 & 4 O6/H7 grades to include English, Maths and another language.

Institutes of Technology / former Institute of Technology e.g CIT now MTU- Level 8 Degrees:

A minimum of 6 subjects - 2 H5 & 4 O6/H7 grades to include Maths and English or Irish.

#### **Former Institutes of Technology - L. 6 Cert & L. 7 Degree:**

A minimum of 5 subjects - 5 O6/H7 grades to include Maths and English or Irish.

#### **Cadetship Army**

A minimum of 6 subjects - 3 H5 & 3 O6/H6 grades to include English, Irish, Maths and third language.

Cadetship in Army Equitation School, Naval Services & Air Corps all have different entry requirements.

## **Course Entry Requirements:**

*Some Examples:*

UCC Undergraduate Medicine - H4 in Chemistry and in either Physics or Biology, O6/H7 in English, Irish, another language and Maths. ***Students must also complete the HPAT in year of entry.***

Engineering UCC - H4 in Maths or H4 in Applied Maths & H6 in Maths, O6/H7 in a lab science.

Primary School Teaching, Mary Immaculate College requires H5 in not less than 3 subjects. Further requirements are H4 in Irish, O4/H7 in Maths, O4/H7 in English

College and Course Entry Requirements vary from course to course and from college to college. **IT IS UP TO YOU TO DO THE RESEARCH!**

***How do I choose in order to cover the majority of options?***

**IRISH, ENGLISH, MATHS...**

### **+ FRENCH/GERMAN**

If you want to study in any NUI

If you want to become a Cadet in the Army

Certain courses e.g. International Business with Language (MTU) Language & European Studies (Cork College of Commerce)

IBEC & Engineers Ireland strongly recommend all students take a language

### **+ SCIENCE SUBJECT(S)**

At least ONE science subject is essential for entry to most university science, medical, engineering, paramedical, technology courses, nursing, etc.

***What Science Subject do I choose?***

*Biology and/or Chemistry are more useful for medical, nursing, food Science and Agriculture fields.*

*Physics and/or Chemistry are more useful for Engineering and Science Fields.*

**+ 2 SUBJECTS THAT YOU LOVE AND ARE REALLY GOOD AT.**

***All information correct as of 09/02/23***

## ***ACCOUNTING***

***If I want to study Accounting in my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Problem solving skills

Good time management

Good attention to detail

Good organisational skills

Like figures and numbers - NB: you do not have to do higher level maths to do higher level accounting

***Leaving Certificate Accounting V's Junior Certificate Business:***

Follows on from the basic book-keeping and accounting elements of Junior Certificate Business

Management Accounting is covered

***Assessment:***

Written Exam

***Assignments during Course:***

Accounting Questions

Learn by doing

***Career Note:***

Accounting is good preparation for business related occupations, but is not essential.

Accounting can be useful for careers in the following areas: Accountancy, Administration, Advertising, Anybody Self Employed, Auditing, Banking, Book-keeping, Building Society Work, Business, Business Law, Business Teacher, Cashier, Clerical Work, Farming, Hotel Management, Insurance, Marketing, Market Research, Production Management, Purchasing Work, Quantity Surveyor, Receptionist, Sales Representative, Store Management, Taxation Work, Tourism, etc.



## ***AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE***

### ***If I want to study Agricultural Science for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Have an interest in animals

Have access to a farm

Biology - though not essential, would be very suitable as a second Leaving Certificate Science Subject

Be able to learn and understand terms

### ***Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science V's Junior Certificate Science:***

Much more detailed than the Junior Certificate Science

The project Component can be worth 25% of the final exam

The exam format is quite different to that of the other Leaving Certificate Science subjects - more writing!

### ***Assessment:***

Project 'Individual Investigative Study (IIS)' submitted by April of LC 25%

Written Exam 75%

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Writing up experiments

Theory and its practice to be learned

Complete research and progress reports for the IIS

### ***Career Note:***

Agricultural Science can be useful for careers in the following areas: Agri-journalism, Brewing Technology, Dairy Scientist, Dietician, Environmental Inspector, Farmer, Farm Manager, Food Science Technology, Forestry Inspector, Horticultural Work, Laboratory Work, Renewable Energy, Science Teacher, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary Surgeon, etc

## ***APPLIED MATHS***

### **Who should think about studying Applied Maths?**

Applied Maths can be taken at Higher and Ordinary Level. It is typically studied by students who have achieved a high grade at Junior Cert Maths, but this is not essential. The most important thing is that you enjoy studying maths, and you like the challenge of trying to solve mathematical problems.

### **What skills would I need?**

A lot of Junior Cycle skills are useful in Applied Maths, especially those that focus on problem-solving, design, communication skills and technology. You would have practised these skills a lot in Mathematics, Science, Business Studies and Coding, as well as other subjects.

### **Assessment:**

The course will change in September 2021.

80% of your final grade will be your final written exam at the end of Leaving Cert, and 20% of your final grade is made up of a modelling project that you study as coursework during your final year.

In the written exam, you will have a choice of a range of questions, so if you found one topic quite difficult you can leave it out.

### **Careers:**

Applied maths would be required for most types of engineering, especially Civil and Mechanical Engineering.

Other careers where it would be useful are: architecture, biophysicist, Computer careers, marine radio operator, medical laboratory technician, meteorologist, naval service, pharmacist, physicist, physics teacher, photographic technician, pilot, radiographer, scientific laboratory technician and scientific research.

## **ART**

### ***If I want to study Art for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

- Be able to give a personal response to experiences, ideas and pieces of art
- Be able to write a discursive essay
- Be able to work from memory, imagination and direct observation
- Be able to use and understand the art and design elements
- Be able to use a variety of topics, materials, media and equipment

### ***Leaving Certificate Art V's Junior Cycle Art:***

- The main difference is the opportunity to study Art History and Appreciation
- Practical work expands and develops on from work undertaken in Junior Cycle
- Drawing skills are emphasised and developed to a more professional level

### ***Assessment:***

- Written examination in Art History and Appreciation 30%
- Practical Examination : 20 %
- Course Work: Section A (still life or imaginative composition) 25%
- Course Work: Section B (craft piece or design piece) 25%

### ***Assignments during the course:***

- Course Work: 10 week project involving a workbook and production of 2 art pieces
- Art History and Appreciation: 3 sections to exam a) Irish Art b) European Art and c) General Appreciation e.g. Gallery Visits
- Life Drawing: ***Drawing from the human form.***

### ***Career Note:***

- A portfolio will probably be needed for entry to a Third Level Art Course. Art is acceptable in place of the language requirement for students entering NCAD.** Art is either necessary or useful for the following careers: Advertising, Art Teacher, Architecture, Beautician, Cosmetics Consultant, Crafts, Fashion, Florist, Furniture Design, Gallery and Museum Work, Graphic Design, Hairdresser, Interior Design, Marketing, Occupational Therapist, Painting and Decorating, Photography, Picture Restorer, Primary Teacher, Printing and Publishing, Sign Writer, Textile Design, Television work, Video Production, etc

## **BIOLOGY**

### ***If I want to study Biology for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Be able to learn and understand facts, terms, principles and ideas

A good command of English is useful

Be able to carry out practical work - Lab and fieldwork - safely

Be able to record and interpret information

Be able to understand experimental techniques

### ***Leaving Certificate Biology V's Junior Certificate Biology:***

Much more detail

A wider range of topics to cover

### ***Assessment:***

New syllabus since September 2002 with three units: (1) study of life; (2) the cell; (3) the organism with 22 mandatory activities.

### ***Assignments during course:***

Experimentations followed by write-ups

Field ecology

### ***Career Note:***

Biology can be useful or necessary for careers in the following areas: Agriculture, Agriculture Research, Ambulance Driver, Beautician, Biochemical, Biologist, Biology Teacher, Catering Superintendent, Chiropodist, Conservation Worker, Cosmetic Consultant, Dairy Scientist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Technician, Dentist, Dietician, Doctor, Food Science Technician, Forester, Hairdresser, Health Inspector, Horticulturist, Laboratory Assistant, Marine Biologist, Medical Laboratory Assistant, Microbiologist, Nail Technician, Nurse, Occupational Therapist, Oceanographer, Optician, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Radiographer, Speech Therapist, Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary Surgeon, Zoologist, etc.

## ***BUSINESS***

### ***If I want to study Business for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Have an interest in Business and Enterprise

Be able to analyse and interpret data

Be able to write discursive essays

### ***Leaving Certificate Business V's Junior Certificate Business:***

At Leaving Certificate you will look in more detail at issues like people involved in Business, Enterprise, Industrial Relations and Marketing

### ***Assessment:***

Written Exam

### ***Assignments during course:***

Continuous assessment exercises

Case studies on local, national and international Business

### ***Career Note:***

Business is very useful, but not essential, in order to study Business at Third Level.

Business can be useful for careers in the following areas: Accounting, Administration, Banking, Book-keeping, Business, Clerical work, Company Secretary, Economics, Hotel Management, Industry, Insurance, Law, Management, Marketing, Purchasing, Sales, Self Employment, Taxation, etc.

## **CHEMISTRY**

### ***If I want to study Chemistry for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Have adequate practical skills in order to carry out the mandatory experiments

Be able to work safely in the laboratory

Be able to draw graphs and diagrams

Familiarity with calculator use

Be able to learn and understand facts and terms

Be reasonably good at maths

### ***Leaving Certificate Chemistry V's Junior Certificate Chemistry:***

Much more detailed

Much more practical work and related theory

New topics e.g. Organic Chemistry, Thermo chemistry

### ***Assessment:***

Written Exams only - incorporates assessment of practical work which was carried out during the course

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Writing up experiments

Problem solving exercises

Theory to be learned (including definitions)

### ***Career Note:***

Chemistry can be useful or necessary for careers in the following area: Archaeologist, Brewing Technology, Chemistry Teacher, Cosmetic Science, Dairy Scientist, Dental Craftsperson, Dental Hygienist, Dentist, Doctor, Dietician, Engineer, Food Science Technology, Forensic Scientist, Forestry Inspector, Health Inspector, Industrial Chemist, Laboratory Work, Nurse, Optician, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Pilot, Radiographer, Speech Therapist, etc.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

### **If I want to study Computer Science for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?**

Have an interest in technology, problem solving and independent learning

Have a good mathematical aptitude - Junior Certificate Higher Level

Critical thinking skills

Problem solving strategies

Good organisational and work ethic

### **Leaving Certificate Computer Science V's Junior Coding**

Leaving Certificate uses the programming language for 3 of the 4 main projects. The remaining project develops a website using, HTML, CSS and JavaScript.

The subject is very hands on with emphasis on learning through longer project work rather than learning off material.

It is not necessary to have studied coding previously to do the subject.

### **Leaving Certificate Assessment:**

Written Exam 40%

Coding Exam 30%

Project. 30%

### **Assignments during Course:**

During your two years of study you will complete four projects. These are:

Build an interactive website

Design, build and code an embedded system of sensors and microchip

Build a computer model to analyse a real world problem such as population growths

Analyse large data sets to find patterns

### **Career Note:**

Computer Science is useful for the following careers:

Web developer, App developer, Video game developer, Banking and IT, Data scientist, Cyber Security specialist

## ***CONSTRUCTION STUDIES***

### ***If I want to study Construction studies for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Experience of Technical Graphics, Materials Technology (wood), Metal Work and/or Art would be useful, but not essential

Ability to work safely in a workshop

Ability to take clear instructions

A genuine interest in the Built Environment

An ability to pick and complete projects

### ***Leaving Certificate Construction Studies :***

This subject does not have a Junior certificate equivalent. Some see it as a follow on from Materials Technology (Wood).

The subject deals with all aspects of building a home

Covers renewable resources - energy efficient homes, insulation, damp proofing, forces and loads, etc.

### ***Assessment:***

Written theory exam - 50%

Project/Portfolio - 25%

Practical exam - 25%

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Project work throughout two years.

Written Assignments

### ***Career Note:***

Construction Studies can be useful for careers in the following areas : Architecture, Auctioneering, Bricklaying, Construction Studies Teacher, Building Management, Carpenter, Civil and Structural Engineer, Electrician, Environmental Designer, Fire Fighter, Heating and Ventilation Technician, Insurance, Metal Work Teacher, Painter and Decorator, Plasterer, Quantity Surveyor, Site Clerk, Technical Sales, Town and County Planning, etc.



## ***DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS***

***If I want to study Design & Communication Graphics for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Problem Solving Skills

To work neatly and accurately

Keen interest in design and technical graphics

***Leaving Certificate Design & Communication Graphics V's Junior Certificate Technical Graphics:***

Continuation of work studied at Junior Certificate level.

Engineering Applications.

### ***Assessment:***

Written Exam - 60%

Solid works project - 40%

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Solid Works assignments

Theory work

### ***Career Note:***

Design & Communication Graphics is very useful, not essential, for Architecture or Engineering Courses. It is accepted instead of a third language for course in National College of Art and Design

Design & Communication Graphics is useful for careers in the following areas: All Engineering and Technical Careers, Aircraft Technician, Architecture, Army, Air Corp, Bricklayer, Carpenter, Cartographer, Construction Studies, Draughtsman, Fitter, Industrial Designer, Maintenance and Service Personnel, Mechanic, Plumber, Structural Design, Technical Sales, Toolmaker, Town Planner, Welder, etc.

## ***ECONOMICS***

### ***If I want to study Economics for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Have an interest in the economy  
Have an interest in the current affairs  
Be able to analyse and interpret information

### ***Leaving Certificate Economics V's Junior Certificate Business:***

It follows on from the basic foundations set down in Junior Certificate Business Studies

### ***What is Economics?***

Economics is a social science, this is it is the study of human behaviour. Economics is divided into two sections: Micro-economics is the study of individual markets i.e. buyers and sellers agree on a price. The price helps decide who gets the goods and services and what factors of production are employed. Macro-economics deals with matters affecting the wealth of the whole community call Gross National Product. You will study Banking, International Trade and Finance, the EU, the role of the government in the economy, etc.

### ***Assessment:***

Written Exam - 2½ hours 80%  
Research Study—20%

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Research Study Report 20% of final assessment  
Continuous assessment exercises  
Case studies linking the theory to the real world

### ***Career Note:***

Economics is very useful, but not essential , in order to study Economics at Third Level.

Economics can be useful for careers in the following areas: Accounting, Administration, Banking, Business, Business Teaching, Commerce, Economics, Engineering, Financial Services, Government, IT, Journalism, Management, Marketing, Politics, Social Work, Stock broking, Trade Unions, etc.

## ***ENGINEERING***

### ***If I want to study Engineering in my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Problem solving skills and practical skills

Interest in Engineering as a discipline

Neatness, accuracy and attention to detail

It would be an advantage to have studied Metal Work to Junior Certificate Level, but not a necessity

### ***Leaving Certificate Engineering V's Junior Certificate Metal Work :***

Builds on the practical skills acquired at Junior Certificate

Similar topics covered in greater depth

Theory is more detailed in Leaving Certificate

### ***Assessment:***

Written exam - 50% in H. L., 40% in O. L.

Project - 25% in H. L., 30% in O. L. - completed November to March of 6th year

Practical Exam in May of 6th year - 25% in H. L., 30% in O. L.

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Workshop Practical

Research, design and construction of projects

Class work based on learning new skills

Theory

### ***Career Note:***

The subject is very useful, but not essential for Engineering at Third Level.

Engineering is useful for careers in the following areas: Aircraft Technician, Army/Air Corp, Apprenticeships, Engraver, Engineering Teacher, Fabricator, Fitter, Industrial Design, Industrial Operator, Mechanics, Mechanical Production, Metal Work Teacher, Service and Maintenance Personnel, Structural and Civil Engineer, Technicians, Technical Sales, Toolmaker, Welder, etc

## **FRENCH**

### ***If I want to study French for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Be able and willing to develop oral, aural, writing and reading skills in French so that you can develop confidence in a foreign language

Have interest in the French culture

Be able to learn independently

### ***Leaving Certificate French V's Junior Certificate French:***

More focus on oral work

Continuation of other skills development

Need to do some work everyday to become very familiar with language

### ***Assessment:***

Oral Exam - 25% in H.L, 20% in O.L.

Aural Exam - 20% in H.L, 25% in O.L.

Written Exam on reading comprehension and writing ability - 55%

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Regular participation in oral and aural class work

Reading comprehensions and writing exercises

### ***Career Note:***

You must have a foreign language for entry to all colleges of the National University of Ireland i.e.. UCC, UCD, NUI Galway and Maynooth. *(However, recently these colleges have dropped that requirement for many of their engineering, science, agricultural and food science programmes. A third language is also not a requirement for nursing programmes. Art is acceptable in place of the language for students entering NCAD.)* You also need a foreign language to become a Cadet in the Army or Air Corps. Certain Industries and employers think very highly of candidates with foreign language skills.

French can be useful for careers in the following areas: Air Steward/Stewardess, Air Traffic Controller, Au Pair, Bilingual Secretary, Business, Careers in Export, Chef, Courier, Hotel Management, Hotel Receptionist, Human Resources, International Marketing, Importer, Interpreter, Journalist, Librarian, Translator, International Driver, Ground Hostess, Pilot, Tourism, Travel Agent, Work in the Department of Foreign Affairs, etc

## **GEOGRAPHY**

### ***If I want to study Geography for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Be able to develop geographical and vocational skills

Be interested in active citizenship

Be able to use information and communications technology

### ***Leaving Certificate Geography V's Junior Certificate Geography:***

Builds on the experience of the student at Junior Certificate, introducing Geographical Investigation

Develops the limited experience of regional Geography at Junior Cycle and allows the student and teacher to specialise on a number of regions

### ***Assessment:***

The revised Leaving Certificate syllabus for senior cycle Geography was first examined June 2006:

Ordinary Level: short answer questions and multi part questions

Higher Level: short answer questions, multi part question and essay type questions

Both levels will have separate written exam papers –80%

20% for report on Geographical Investigation

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Class work and homework assignments

Fieldwork

Writing up of field work

### ***Career Note:***

NB: Geography is presently accepted as a Science subject at Trinity College Dublin for both Science and Pharmacy.

Geography is useful for careers in the following areas: Agriculture, Air Traffic Controller, Anthropologist, Architecture, Archaeology, Cartographer, Civil Engineering, Construction, Conservation Work, Courier, Development Work Abroad, Estate Agent, Forestry, Geologist, Geography Teacher, Guide, Horticulture, International Driver, Market Research, Marine Officer, Meteorology, Mineralogy, Pilot, Statistics, Surveying, Town and County Planning, etc.

## **GERMAN**

### ***If I want to study German for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Be able and willing to develop oral, aural, writing and reading skills in German so that you can develop confidence in a foreign language  
Have interest in the German culture  
Be able to learn independently

### ***Leaving Certificate German V's Junior Certificate German:***

More focus on oral work  
Continuation of other skills development  
Need to do some work everyday to become very familiar with language

### ***Assessment:***

Oral Exam - 25% in H.L, 20% in O.L.  
Aural Exam - 20% in H.L, 25% in O.L.  
Written Exam on reading comprehension and writing ability - 55%

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Regular participation in oral and aural class work  
Reading Comprehensions and writing exercises

### ***Career Note:***

You must have a foreign language for entry to all colleges of the National University of Ireland i.e.. UCC, UCD, NUI Galway and Maynooth. *(However, recently these colleges have dropped that requirement for many of their engineering, science, agricultural and food science programmes. A third language is also not a requirement for nursing programmes. Art is acceptable in place of the language for students entering NCAD.)* You also need a foreign language to become a Cadet in the Army or Air Corps. Certain Industries and employers think very highly of candidates with foreign language skills.

German can be useful for careers in the following areas: Air Steward/Stewardess, Air Traffic Controller, Au Pair, Bilingual Secretary, Business, Careers in Export, Chef, Courier, Hotel Management, Hotel Receptionist, Human Resources, International Marketing, Importer, Interpreter, Journalist, Librarian, Translator, International Driver, Ground Hostess, Pilot, Tourism, Travel Agent, Work in the Department of Foreign Affairs, etc.

## ***HISTORY***

### ***If I want to study History in my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Be able to analyse and interpret facts and opinions and use them to support your own views  
Be able to discuss a statement taking into account arguments “for and against”  
Be able to learn facts, statistics and legal clauses /acts  
Be able to learn how to extract information from primary documents/ maps  
Be able to write a concise, clear, logical and interesting argument  
Really like reading and writing

### ***Leaving Certificate History V's Junior Certificate History:***

Junior Certificate looked broadly at History from the Stone Age to the 20th century. Leaving Certificate will focus on the late 19th and 20th century.

The course will cover both Irish and European History looking at personalities, events and their influences especially European wars. Motives will be analysed and alternative actions sought. American, African and Asian history will also be looked at.

More focus will be placed on improving writing skills.

### ***Assessment:***

A Project on a special topic will be completed and returned to the Department before students sit their final exam worth 20%

Final Exam - documents (prescribed case studies) similar but more complex to the Documents Section of the Junior Certificate; map work and essay style questions at H.L or Paragraphs at O.L.

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Essay writing  
Project for exam  
Summary writing  
Map work

### ***Career Note:***

History is useful for careers in the following areas: Archaeology, Barrister, Broadcaster, Civil Service, English Teacher, Garda, History Teacher, Historian, Journalism, Judge, Law, Librarian, Museum Work, Researcher, Politics, Prison service, Sociology, Tourism, Trade Union Official, University Professor, Writer, etc.

## ***HOME ECONOMICS - (Scientific & Social)***

***If I want to study Home Economics for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

- Be able to research, study, analyse and interpret material
- Be able and willing to learn Nutrition and Culinary skills
- Be able to communicate well
- Be organised & be able to problem solve
- Be able to discuss topics and work in teams

***Leaving Certificate Home Economics V's Junior Certificate Home Economics:***

***Consumer studies that covers everyday consumer decisions e.g. insurance, mortgages, savings, credit, etc.***

Practical cookery assessed through written exams only

There is a lot more Sociology e.g. Family /marriage/ relationships/ family problems

e.g. alcoholism gambling,

the elderly, housing, problems facing teenagers/ child care development

In-depth Study of Nutrition and Resource Management

### ***The Core Areas***

1. Food Studies - 45%

2. Resource Management and Consumer Studies - 25%

3. Social Studies - 10%

Among the topics included in these core areas are: Nutrition, Diet Related Diseases, Consumer Studies, Environmental Awareness, Managing Household Finances, Marriage and Household Appliances.

### ***Practical Coursework***

This is sent to the State Examinations Commission for inspection in November of 6th Year. This is worth 20% of the final grade. Here in S.M.G.S we complete a draft copy during 5th year with the completed final booklet completed before the summer, easing the pressure of 6th year.

### ***Electives***

We concentrate on the Social Studies Elective as students tend to be interested in this area and have a natural knowledge on the topics already from social media and life experience. Topics covered include Education, Employment, Childcare, Leisure and Poverty.

### ***Things to note:***

It would be advisable for students opting for Leaving Certificate Home Economics to have completed the Junior Cycle course.

Some of the areas covered on the Junior Cycle Home Economics course are continued at Leaving Certificate level.

Much of the course is theory based – students are often under the illusion that “it’s all cooking” and find it quite a shock when they realise even the Practical Section has to be written up and presented – because there is no Practical Examination as at Junior Cycle Level.

There is both an Honours and Ordinary level within the subject. Students’ can opt to take the written exam at Higher or Ordinary level, however the Coursework Journal is at a common level and is corrected as such

***Cross Curricular Links:*** Business, Biology, Economics, Geography, Mathematics,

### ***Career Note:***

Home Economics is useful for careers in the following areas: Baking, Beautician, Catering, Chef, Child Care, Consumer Adviser, Confectionery, Demonstrator of food, wines, etc., Dietician, Environmental Designer, Food Science, Hairdressing, Health Inspector, Home Management, Home Economics Teacher, Home Economist, TV & Radio, Marketing, Advertising, Nutritionist, personal trainer, etc.



## ***LINK MODULES (LCVP)***

Modules required to be studied for the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme which is of two years duration is as follows:

### ***Preparation for the World of Work:***

Research and investigate local employment opportunities; develop your job-seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests you.

### ***Enterprise Education:***

Organise study visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop your teamwork communication and computer skills.

### ***Assessment:***

Written Examination in May (40%)

Portfolio of Coursework (60%)

### ***Career Note:***

The Link Modules are activity-based units of study which are designed to help students make connections between school and community, study and future career, enterprise and the business of making a living. They are recognised in points terms by the majority of Institutes of Technology and Universities:

<b><i>Grade:</i></b>	<b><i>Points</i></b>
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

## **MUSIC**

### ***If I want to study Music for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Be able to perform individually and/or in groups (instrumental/singing)

Have good listening skills

Be interested in learning how to compose, using notation and technology - you will compose your own pieces of music.

### ***Leaving Certificate Music V's Junior Certificate Music:***

The course follows on from the course at Junior Certificate level.

You may use Music Technology in your practical.

### ***Assessment:***

Practical Exam - can be up to 50%

Listening and Written Exam - 50%

### ***Assignments during Course:***

You will study the 4 set works in detail and submit written exercises

You will have the opportunity to develop your instrumental skills and/or develop your singing voice, as well as enjoy group performance

There will be an opportunity for you to develop your own musical ideas

You will spend time listening to a wide range of musical styles

You will study music notation, melody writing and harmony

### ***Career Note:***

Music is useful for careers in the following areas: Actor, Aerobics instructor, Arranger, Composer, Dancer, Disc Jockey, Entertainment, Film Studies, Folklore Studies, Instrument Maker, Library Work, Music Shop Sales, Sound Engineering, Speech Therapy, Music Therapy, Occupational Therapist, Physical Education, Primary/Secondary Teacher, etc.

## ***PHYSICAL EDUCATION***

### **If I want to study Physical Education for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?**

Currently engaging in Physical Activity

Have a keen interest in sporting affairs

Have keen interest in exercise and maintaining personal fitness

Ability to use information and communications technology (ICT)

Ability to analyze and interpret information

### ***What does the subject entail?***

Investigating different theories that impact sporting performance, and putting these theories into practice in three selected physical activity areas.

Exploring contemporary issues in physical activity i.e. the different social, personal and contextual factors that impact participation and performance in sport.

You will be using a variety of tools, including videography and photography, to analyze your own and others' performance in various physical activities.

### ***Assessment:***

Written Exam: 50%

Physical Activity Project (PAP): 20% completed in October-December of 6th Year.

Performance Assessment: 30% completed January-March of 6th Year.

### ***Assignments during the Course:***

Project Work

Theory

Engaging in practical physical education classes

### ***Career Note:***

PE is useful, but not essential in order to study Physical Education Teaching at third level.

PE can be useful for careers in the following areas: physical education teacher, primary school teacher, dietician, physiotherapist, physical therapist, sports scientist, personal trainer, sports journalist, sports broadcaster, sports psychologist, sports biomechanics analyser, sports medicine expert, sports researcher, coach.

## **PHYSICS**

### ***If I want to study Physics for my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Be able to measure physical quantities

Be able to work safely in a lab

Be able to use a calculator properly

Be able to present information in a tabular, graphical, written and *diagrammatical* form

Be able to learn experiments and use data appropriately

Be fairly good at maths (B at O.L or above)

### ***Leaving Certificate Physics V's Junior Certificate Physics:***

More practical work, which makes the theory come alive

More focus on how physics relates to ordinary and familiar things

### ***Assessment:***

Written Exam

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Experiments

Write up experiments

Learn theory - definitions and formulae

### ***Career Note:***

Physics is useful for careers in the following areas : Architecture, Biophysicist, Computer Careers, Dentist, Doctor, Engineering, Health Inspector, Marine Radio Operator, Medical Laboratory Technician, Meteorologist, Naval Service, Nurse, Pharmacist, Physicist, Physics Teacher, Photographic Technician, Pilot, Radiographer, Scientific Laboratory Technician, Scientific Research, etc.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### ***If I want to study Technology in my Leaving Certificate, what aptitudes do I need?***

Ability to integrate design into various forms of Technology project coursework.

Problem Solving Skills

A prior knowledge of Information Technology and Materials Technology would be an advantage.

A link to Junior Cycle Engineering, Materials Technology Wood or Graphics would be helpful but not a necessity.

Ability to use Microsoft Word or Publisher to produce a portfolio accompanying LC project.

Be able to work in a safe and controlled manner in the workshop.

### ***What does the subject entail?***

An ability to work with 2D and 3D Computer Aided Design programs such as Solid works.

Working with CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing) machines such as a Laser Cutter and 3D printer and understand the important and relevance of these used in modern Technology.

Understanding the importance and advancement technology has made on the world we live in.

### ***Assessment:***

Written exam - 50%

Project - 25% completed during November to March of 6<sup>th</sup> year

Portfolio - 25% completed during September to March of 6<sup>th</sup> year.

### ***Assignments during Course:***

Practical workshop

Research, design and completion of 2 classroom based projects

Solid works Assignment.

Theory

### ***Career Note:***

The subject is very useful, but not essential for Technology at Third Level.

is useful for careers in the following areas: Aircraft Technician, Apprenticeships, Computer Hardware Engineer, Computer Aided Manufacture Specialist, Digital Media, Engraver, Engineering Teacher, Graphic Designer, Fabricator, Fitter, Information Technologist, Industrial Design, Industrial Operator, Mechanics, Mechanical Production, Metal Work Teacher, Network & Computer System Administrators, Manufacturing Systems Manager, Service and Maintenance Personnel, Structural and Civil Engineer, Technicians, Technical Sales, Technology Teacher, Web Designer, Welder, etc.

## **LEAVING CERTIFICATE POINTS SCORING SYSTEM:**

*Inc. HL Math*

Percentages	Grade	Higher	Ordinary	bonus points
90-100	1	100	56	125
80-89	2	88	46	113
70-79	3	77	37	102
60-69	4	66	28	91
50-59	5	56	20	81
40-49	6	46	12	71
30-39	7	37	N/A	-

### LCVP Link Modules

Grade	Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

### **USEFUL WEBSITES:**

<a href="http://www.qualifax.ie">www.qualifax.ie</a>	<a href="http://www.careersportal.ie">www.careersportal.ie</a>
<a href="http://www.cao.ie">www.cao.ie</a>	<a href="http://www.nui.ie">www.nui.ie</a>
<a href="http://www.apprenticeships.ie">www.apprenticeships.ie</a>	<a href="http://www.solas.ie">www.solas.ie</a>
<a href="http://www.hairdressingapprenticeships.ie">www.hairdressingapprenticeships.ie</a>	
<a href="http://www.getalifetourism.ie">www.getalifetourism.ie</a>	<a href="http://www.military.ie">www.military.ie</a>
<a href="http://www.qqi.ie">www.qqi.ie</a>	
<a href="http://www.careersnews.ie">www.careersnews.ie</a> & College websites	

### **STAYING INFORMED:**

*All students should sign up to [www.careersnews.ie](http://www.careersnews.ie). This is a very valuable resource, not only for up to date careers news, but also for study skills, time management, interesting articles and videos, etc.*

### **CHANGE OF MIND DEADLINE: September 2024**

Students will be allowed to change their options choice, in early September 2024 (date TBC) by requesting a transfer from the Career Guidance Office during the morning drop in service only.

This request is granted subject to a space being available in the requested subject.

### **WHAT NOW?**

Students should use the websites above and research the courses, subjects and careers they are interested in. If, after their research they still have questions, they should call to Ms. Morrin, Ms. Power & Ms. Lynch during the morning drop in service 09.55—10.10 Monday to Thursday